

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 13, 2006

San Elijo Lagoon

NOTES

1. Called to order at 8:40 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.
2. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda - None
3. Committee Member Comments
 - Paul Davis – I talked with Julian Duval who is the Executive Director of Quail Botanical Gardens and he was going to try to make this meeting, but had an item come up
4. Approval of December 9, 2005 Minutes
 - Postponed to February meeting – no quorum.
5. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Renée Bahl/Jason Hemmens
 - I would like to introduce our Ranger here at San Elijo Lagoon, Ketsela Mengistu has worked here for eight years and has done a great job.
 - The park is a little over 1,000 acres and the county owns slightly less than ½ of the land, but we manage the entire facility.
 - Bob Copper who is the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of our Land Use and Environment Group has announced his retirement. Bob has been a big supporter of Parks and worked as the Parks Director for many years and we will miss him.
 - The State of the County is coming up on February 7, 2006 at 6:00 pm at the Center for the Arts in Escondido. Supervisor Bill Horn will be the Chairman for 2006.
 - As you may see in the packets you received I have included our department's monthly accomplishments and I will just highlight some of the items. I will include these at every meeting from now on.
 - We were awarded 2 Awards of Excellence for the Trails Program and the Support with the Health and Wellness Coalition.
 - The Board of Supervisors is going to have a Call to Action for the San Diego County Childhood Obesity Plan on January 24th at 12:00 pm at the County Administration Center building.
 - Maryanne Vancio our County Trails Coordinator has been appointed by the Governor to the State of California Recreational Trails Committee.
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - PLDO and CSA Fund Balance Reports – Eric Wong
 - ◆ Distributed the PLDO and CSA fund balance reports for January. These reports are the current balances as of the end of December.
 - ◆ You will notice that there are some increases from the last reports from the tax payments that were due in December.

- ◆ We are working with development staff and the communities to try and find appropriate projects to use these funds.
 - Doug Goad – I have a question about the San Dieguito money, is any of that going to the new Miracle Field?
- ◆ The San Dieguito Planning Group has not voted to put any money into this project at this time. The next meeting will be happening next week and we will be giving them information about the project. It would be up to them if they want to put funds towards this project.
- San Elijo Visitor's Center – Charley Marchesano
 - ◆ We are in the very early design phases of this project.
 - ◆ The proposed project would include demolition of the current facility and the construction of a new building that would be two stories and a maximum of 5,600 square feet (which includes both floors). There will be an exhibit room that would be used to try and educate people about the lagoon and the importance of the preserve.
 - ◆ There will be a Ranger office, public restrooms , exhibit hall and possibly classrooms and an observation deck.
 - ◆ We have hired an architect Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects who are working on the concept plans. We will bring them to the February meeting for you to see and comment.
 - ◆ We are going to be having more public meetings at the end of the month.
 - Paul Davis – Have you had an archaeological studies done here?
 - ◆ There is an archaeological site on the east side of the freeway.
 - Rick Landavazo – Is this the lagoon that they plan to do improvements on?
 - ◆ Yes, there are hoping to restore and help the lagoon by opening and closing the mouth of the lagoon to help the overall health of the lagoon.
 - ◆ There is a large group of agencies that are involved in the lagoon restoration.
 - Rick Landavazo – I would assume that if there is going to be any planting that it will be all native species?
 - ◆ If we do any planting it would be native species.
- San Elijo Boardwalk Project – Charley Marchesano
 - ◆ There is an existing loop trail that is about 1/4 mile and approximately 2/3 is covered with decomposed granite and is ADA accessible. The remainder is much more used and would not be accessible to persons with disabilities.
 - ◆ The project will include making the entire path ADA compliant and accessible. We are also hoping that by enhancing this trail it will keep people on the trail and protect the wetland better.
 - ◆ Phase Two of the project includes a raised boardwalk along the path.
 - Doug Goad – How much money do you need for the project?
 - ◆ We are already funded for Phase One and need approximately \$200,000 to complete Phase Two.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.

ATTENDEES:

Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2
Doug Goad, District 3

Paul Davis, District 3
Rick Landavazo, District 5
Rod Groenewold, District 5
Renee Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Jason Hemmens, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Charley Marchesano, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Eric Wong, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Ketsela Mengistu, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation